Saskatchewan
Agriculture
and Food

FINAL REPORT

BEEF DEVELOPMENT FUND

20010340

CANADIAN PRODUCTION RE: HIGH STATUS SEED OF U.S. PUBLIC FORAGE VARIETIES UNDER AGREEMENT WITH USDA / STATE CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATIONS

Funded by
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Final Report – BDF Project 20010340 RES B054

a) Abstract Summary:

As indicated before SCIA's and its business registration SPMC mandate includes the evaluation of forage material in particular and the harvest of seed where possible, especially high status under our Canadian field inspection regulatory system. This is as well as having gone through a specific quarantine for the different situations. This quarantine can be over and above what is required in our present system i.e. downy brome allowed up to 50 in a count of 25 gm. Vs SCIA standards set at zero.

At present only foreign public material is available to fulfill this mandate. Canadian public forage varieties are tendered out almost exclusively to a member(s) of the seed trade, basically going to the highest bidder.

To further evaluation and as part of the technology transfer where applicable some seed is to be demoted allowing it to go out for field scale forage evaluation in potentially adaptable areas.

In 2003 even under very adverse conditions again (as in 2002), forage and seed production turned out quite well, of what appears very adaptable material from the state of Utah.

The seed harvest of the three varieties, initially released by Utah Crop Improvement Ass'n. (UCIA) to SCIA, was successful even with the additional problem of the managing director of SCIA and SPMC being hospitalized throughout most of the production period.

b) Technical Report:

Activities, etc. – Due to the hospitalization of the managing director in early June only the essentials were done relying on a summer student in place before these circumstances and volunteer help (with some material payment in a few cases such as receiving some bales, use of our equipment in their own operations, etc.). some help came locally but in particular from the Melfort area where expert people took over management and quality control so important with foundation seed.

The planned 4th annual field day was eventually cancelled when a sought after day pass from Saskatoon Royal University Hospital for the managing director for SCIA became out of the question.

Even though the field day was cancelled, a number of producers showed up that day along with the forage geneticist Surya Acharya from Lethbridge Research – here he could compare their irrigated material with dryland production at SPMC (unfortunate when there is good irrigation potential from nearby Tobin Lake or Codette Lake).

The help on sight toured with anyone that did arrive although no real preparation had been taken.

Results and Conclusions – The number one objective of seed harvest was achieved along with the forage harvest.

Approximately 100 bushels in bulk of New Hy was harvested; Vavilov and Douglas yielded nearly 300 bushels each. A small lot of Hycrest was harvested outside the seed agreement with UCIA but supplied on their behalf. They are possibly looking at having it re-instated to foundation status.

Final figures won't be known until after clean up but all lots were harvested to yield as low as possible clean out samples. Freedom from bromey-type weeds (such as downy brome, Japanese brome, etc.) is a virtual 100 % guarantee.

Indications for Further Development – Now that there has been a seed harvest the potential to receive the rights to other species/varieties exists. Already a specific variety of Russian wild ryegrass is available (material that is even earlier in the spring than the crested wheatgrasses') plus possible diversion of another crested wheatgrass variety. A new meadow brome from UCIA is imminent; future could hold rights to a blue bunch wheatgrass variety (native material), trefoil work, etc., etc.

Information of Benefit to Producers, Processors, or Government –

Non exclusive releases will aid private producers/processors as well as members of the seed trade. This in turn will aid the industry to grow overall as opposed to exclusive Canadian releases seriously limiting involvement often by knowledgeable growers with the expertise required.

Information such as the fall recovery of Douglas after less than one inch of rainfall in late August/early September, on parched soil with little sub-soil reserves, will be made available to interested parties – possibly as well through a newsletter in a membership drive (CARDS involvement).

There was nine (9) inches of broad leaf fall re-growth in the Douglas – up to ¾ inch width of leaves, comparable to smooth brome.

In November Saskatchewan Forage Advisory didn't look at specific merit, denying registration of one or two of the varieties – this request has been forwarded to the Alberta advisory group.

Registration through CFIA is to change in 2005 but there are other "avenues" that can be taken at the present time for both seed growers and forage producers.

Saskatchewan plot work data especially from the forage council can be questionable due to problems with lay-out and poor establishment plus execution.

c) Personnel:

The person involved as a summer student was Kent Seerey. Three other persons were hired as casual labour. **d) Equipment: no equipment purchased or rented.**

e) Project Developed Materials:

Displays professionally set-up at Agribition were transferred to the Seager Wheeler Seed Show (Crop Production Week). The display included promotional material as well as actual samples of the three varieties included in the seed agreement with UCIA.

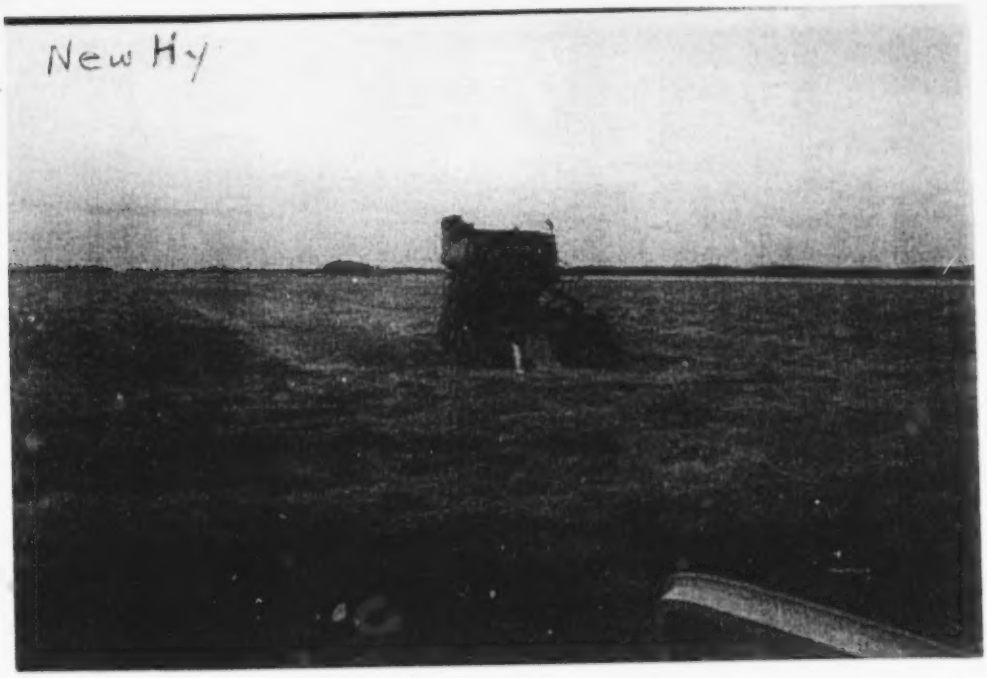
f) Project Photos:

Notes are on photo backs – in particular note Mike McAvoy and Dr. Scott Wright (Crop Development Branch) in Douglas field on June 3/03.

g) Acknowledgement:

Note BDF noted on past field day(s) announcements – to be continued in the future.

New Hy



Vavilov